



Honorable David Oliver, PDUSD(A&T), Emphasizes Importance of Standardization

At the Annual Defense Standardization Program Award Ceremony, the Honorable David Oliver, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology (PDUSD(A&T)), praised the Defense Standardization Program and those who continue making it an outstanding success. Highlights of his remarks made during the Ceremony on July 7, 1999, are shown below.

Savings from the efforts of the 1998 Standardization Award recipients: "Let me do this from the heart because, first of all, we have to recognize how important this is. ...In the past year, the savings are **in excess of \$100 million**, and we expect to get a billion dollars out of this over the next several years."

MilSpec Reform's goals and significance: "It is terribly important that we succeed in this... Not only because the whole **goal is to make us so that we can use more commercial companies so that we stay on the leading edge of standards instead of establishing our own...** but because it [MilSpec Reform] was the first thing that happened. Dr. Perry established it [MilSpec Reform], and **if we do not succeed, it will make it more difficult to succeed in all the other things that involve acquisition reform.**"



DoD should stay involved with industry standards: "We cannot lose interest though in standardization, we have to keep leading that effort. We had 2,000 people approximately who were leading standardization in various fora with industry in 1994, and now we're down to a couple hundred. **It is terribly important that we remain involved** because we do have different requirements and we have a great deal of knowledge... We have to stay involved **and we have to help lead all the various committees that are doing it**, which is not to say that we're going to take on the CEO of Intel about the design of chips, but we have to stay involved in setting the standards."

Standardization - important in the international arena: "Dr. Gansler and I are concerned ...that we had lost interest in it [standardization] as a Department—we simply weren't paying enough attention to it. It became obvious to us when we were looking at NATO. **We were afraid that the NATO approach to standardization was going to go off in a direction which was going to ignore most of the manufacturing capability of the world.** So I urge you to remain involved and to remain interested because the elimination of Milspecs and standards is not to say that we're not still interested in standards."

Standardization Award Recipients: "Let me talk about some people who have made some extraordinary achievements. In the Army, Ms. Bamberg worked with industry under the auspices of the American Society of Testing and Materials and they **found immediate replacements for 20 material specifications** and began a project to identify industry-wide standards for another 50. That's the kind of involvement that we need... Mr. Burcham from the Navy has worked with the marine furniture manufacturers to **replace 400 detail design specs with performance specs** that will be standard on all future ship contracts. Mr. Zwick, from the Air Force, **worked with companies, which is really key, which do not traditionally do business with us...** We have to reach out to those companies because those companies are where the leading edge is. What he was working on was digital display unit sets, which can be used across a variety of weapon platforms including E-3A, C-130, and thousands of ground and control units that were having lots of problems... To be honest with you, industry is really leading us, and the key is to stay up with it. Mr. Brawley, from this agency itself [DLA], worked with the Services to **standardize requirements for jet fuel quality in commercial airports**. [He] took these requirements to the air transportation association to ensure they worked and what that's going to enable us to do is privatize or at least compete... But if you don't have standards like this, there's no way we can pass it on... because we're not sure what we're going to get."

Standardization's importance to the DoD and to the Nation's future: "The crux of this whole thing is that **standardization is terribly important. It's not only important for the Army of 2010, ...but for our goal to maintain peace for the world for 300 years.** That ought to be our goal. We have the society that can support a military that can do that. We have the men and women involved in uniform that can do that. That is the legacy that we ought to provide to our children's grandchildren. And if we do not do it, we are not challenging ourselves, nor are we taking advantage of what God has given us as a natural ability. We cannot do this by ourselves. **We are going to have to do this with lots of other countries, which is the reason why standardization is important internationally.** And it is important here because if we do not couple the military to the commercial environment, we will not have done our job. I personally appreciate the efforts of those people that have been involved in doing this both for the Defense Department, for our nation, and for the 300 years in the future that we owe the men and women who have gone before us."

